

SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS: *FALL SEASON—August to November 2010*

Sub-regional Compilers:

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This report summarizes bird sightings from Southeast Alaska for the fall season, which covered August to November 2010, and is intended to provide interesting observations for inclusion in an Alaska-wide column written by Thede Tobish for the journal *North American Birds* (published by the American Birding Association <http://www.aba.org/>). Generally we report on sightings of birds that are out of range or out of season, noteworthy breeding records, unusually large or small numbers of a particular species, unusual migration dates, etc., and so on, and so forth.

Highlights this fall included the 3rd Alaska nesting record of the Pied-billed Grebe, increasing numbers of Eurasian Collared-Doves, an invasion of Anna's Hummingbirds, and a nice selection of rarities, including Heermann's Gull, Palm Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Clay-colored Sparrow, Rustic Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and the 1st Southeast Alaska report of Fork-tailed Swift. A series of powerful October storms drove small numbers of pelagic species to inside waters around Ketchikan in early October, including Northern Fulmars, Leach's and Fork-tailed storm-petrels, Red Phalaropes, Sabine's Gulls, and all three species of jaegers. Aaron Lang was lucky enough to participate on a boat trip from Kodiak to Seattle in October that resulted in some very interesting observations well offshore of Southeast Alaska.

We would like to thank all of the people that directly sent us observations, shared their photographs, and answered our inquiries about their sightings, all of whom are cited below. The notes and photographs that we received were forwarded to Thede Tobish. We were particularly pleased to again receive extensive reports from Rich Gordon, Nat Drumheller, and Matt Goff. We also greatly benefited from access to sightings entered into eBird (www.ebird.org) which we've incorporated into this report (e.g., virtually all of the information for the Juneau area was obtained from eBird). Finally, Matt Goff, Mark Schwan, Paul Suchanek, Nat Drumheller, Gus van Vliet, and Dave Sonneborn provided reviews of the final draft of this summary.

Names and Initials of observers cited in the text or who reported sightings: Beverly A. Agler (BAA), Robert H. Armstrong (RHA), Anissa S. Berry (ASB), Deb Brushafer (DB), Snapper Carson (SC), Margaret Cloud (MC), Ernie DeBoer (ED), Bonnie H. Demerjian (BHD), Cameron D. Eckert (CDE), Nat K. Drumheller (NKD), Donald Frank (DF), Cheryl A. Fultz (CAF), Matt R. Goff (MRG), Richard J. Gordon (RJG), Carrie K. Hisaoka (CKH), Steven C. Heinl (SCH), Merrill Jensen (MJ), Jennifer L. Johnson (JLJ), Jerrold F. Koerner (JFK), Aaron J. Lang (AJL), Jim H. Lewis (JHL), Dave Lesh (DL), Richard E. Lowell (REL), Van Madding (VM), Chris J. Mannix (CJM), Emily C. Mount (ECM), Richard Nelson (RN), Paul H. Norwood (PHN), Bruce B. Paige (BBP), Bill H. Pawuk (BHP), Andrew W. Piston (AWP), Larry Platt (LMP), Dave K. Porter (DKP), Pat J. Pourchot (PJP), Jim and Judy Raymond (JJR), Kathy M. Ripley (KMR), Patty A. Rose (PAR), Mark W. Schwan (MWS), Marieke D. Slovin (MDS), Marlena Mooring Saupe (MMS), Greg P. Streveler (GPS), Paul M. Suchanek (PMS), Marlys E. Tedin (MET), Troy S. Thynes (TST), Kelly Tidwell (KT), Phoebe B. S. Vanselow (PBSV), Gus B. van Vliet (GBV), Marge L. Ward (MLW), Kathleen Wendt (KLW), Will T. Young (WTY).

SPECIES ACCOUNTS:

SNOW GOOSE: A flock of four Snow Geese at the Ketchikan airport 20 August 2010 (CAF) was very unusual as there are no prior local summer reports of non-breeders. Typical observations of migrant Snow Geese were reported later in the season, including 2,000–3,000 at the mouth of the Stikine River 18 October 2010 (TST, REL). A single Snow Goose on the ground at Ketchikan through 7 November 2010 provided a new local late date (JHL, photo).

BRANT: Eight Brant at Gustavus 3 August 2010, and three there 24 August 2010, likely summered locally (NKD), as did the two birds at Sitka 19–20 August 2010 (MET, MLW).

CAACKLING GOOSE: The Cackling Goose is likely an uncommon fall migrant to Southeast Alaska but its status is still not well known. Cackling Geese were observed migrating south over the Ketchikan area in mid-October in mixed flocks with Canada Geese (e.g., 10 on 10 October 2010, SCH, AWP). The subspecies involved were not identified for either species. Cackling Geese were also reported at Gustavus 3 October–12 November (maximum, three 20 November; NKD), Sitka 31 October–16 November 2010 (maximum, 15 on 12 November 2010; MET, MLW) and Point Bridget, near Juneau, 15 October 2010 (one; PMS).

CANVASBACK: A Canvasback at Gustavus 31 October 2010 was joined by a second bird 12 November 2010 (NKD) and at least two were also found at Sitka 28 September–18 October 2010 (MET, MLW, MRG). Maximum at Juneau was 10 on 27–30 October 2010 (NRH). This duck is a rare fall migrant in southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), and it occurs annually in the Juneau area.

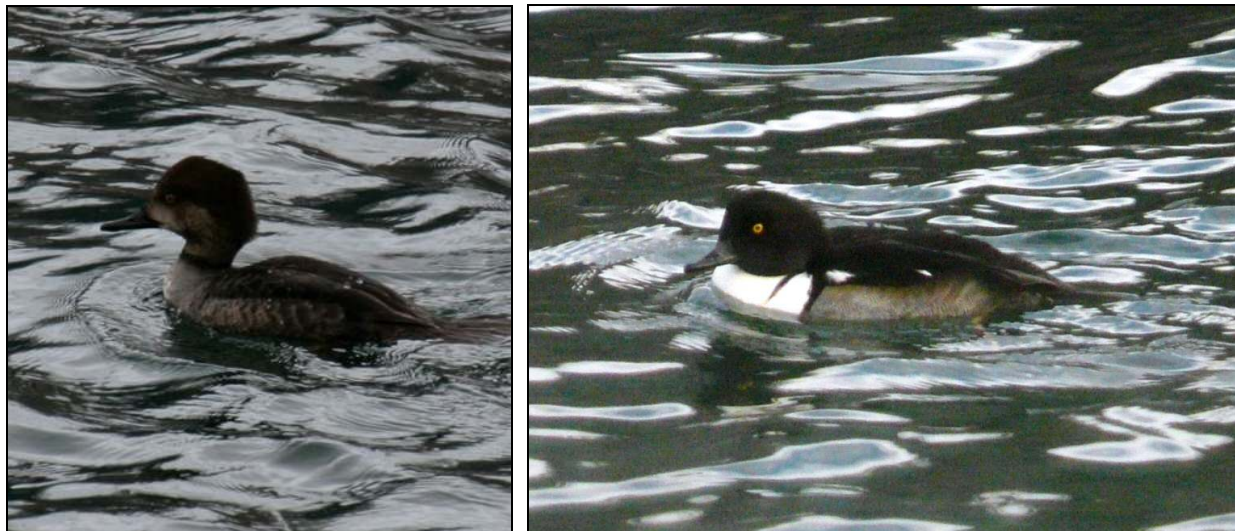


Figure 1. This hybrid Hooded Merganser x goldeneye sp. returned for its 2nd winter at Juneau. The left photo was taken 26 March 2010 when the bird was in its 1st winter (photo *Nick R. Hajdukovich*). The bird appeared in the same location this fall, now in adult male plumage (photo *Paul M. Suchanek*). The narrow black bill, black markings on the sides of the breast, and buffy flanks identify the Hooded Merganser as one parent, while the greenish head and white scapular markings suggest a goldeneye as the other parent.



Figure 2. A very rare find, this Ruddy Duck at Sitka 17 November 2010 provided only the 2nd local record. *Photo by Matt R. Goff*

REDHEAD: A single Redhead at Juneau 6–8 November 2010 (PAR, PMS) was the only report of the season. This duck is a very rare fall migrant in southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), and it occurs annually in the Juneau area.

RING-NECKED DUCK: Ring-necked Ducks were found in larger-than-average numbers in the Juneau area from mid-October to early November, including a maximum count of 125 at Twin Lakes 18 October 2010 (PMS) that far exceeded the previous local high count.

HYBRID WATERFOWL: A male Common x Barrow's goldeneye hybrid returned for its 5th consecutive winter at Juneau 21 November 2010 (PMS, BAA), while a male Hooded Merganser x goldeneye sp. hybrid returned for its 2nd winter at Juneau 21 November 2010 (PAR, PMS; Figure 1).

RUDDY DUCK: Single Ruddy Ducks were found at Juneau 20 October 2010 (NRH; Figure 2) and Sitka 17–20 November 2010 (2nd local record; MRG, MLW, MET). This species is a casual migrant in Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), with most records from the period October–November.

WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN: An adult White-tailed Ptarmigan with chicks was found in the upper part of Glacier Bay's west arm, near Lamplugh Glacier, 6 August 2010 (ECM). This species is an uncommon resident in the mainland alpine of northern Southeast Alaska but it also occurs at lower elevation in upper Glacier Bay where it is rare (fide NKD).

PIED-BILLED GREBE: A pair of Pied-billed Grebes that summered at Swan Lake, Sitka, were discovered to have nested there when four downy chicks were observed 4 August 2010+ (MRG; Figure 3). This grebe is primarily a rare fall migrant and winter visitant in Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978) and there were only two prior documented nesting records at Cordova (Isleib and Kessel 1989) and Annette Island (Heinl and Piston 2009). Single birds at Ketchikan 23 November 2010 (SCH) and 30 November 2010 (SC), and at Bartlett Cove, near Gustavus, 24

November 2010 (1st local record; GPS, PBSV, et al.; Figure 4) fit the normal pattern of occurrence.

WESTERN GREBE: Single Western Grebes were found in Icy Strait, near Pleasant Island, 13 September 2010 (GPS), near the mouth of Glacier Bay 25 November 2010 (NRH), and at Sitka 16–17 October 2010 (DB). Although this species is locally common at favored areas on inside waters from Sumner Strait south (Kessel and Gibson 1978), it is rare in northern Southeast Alaska.

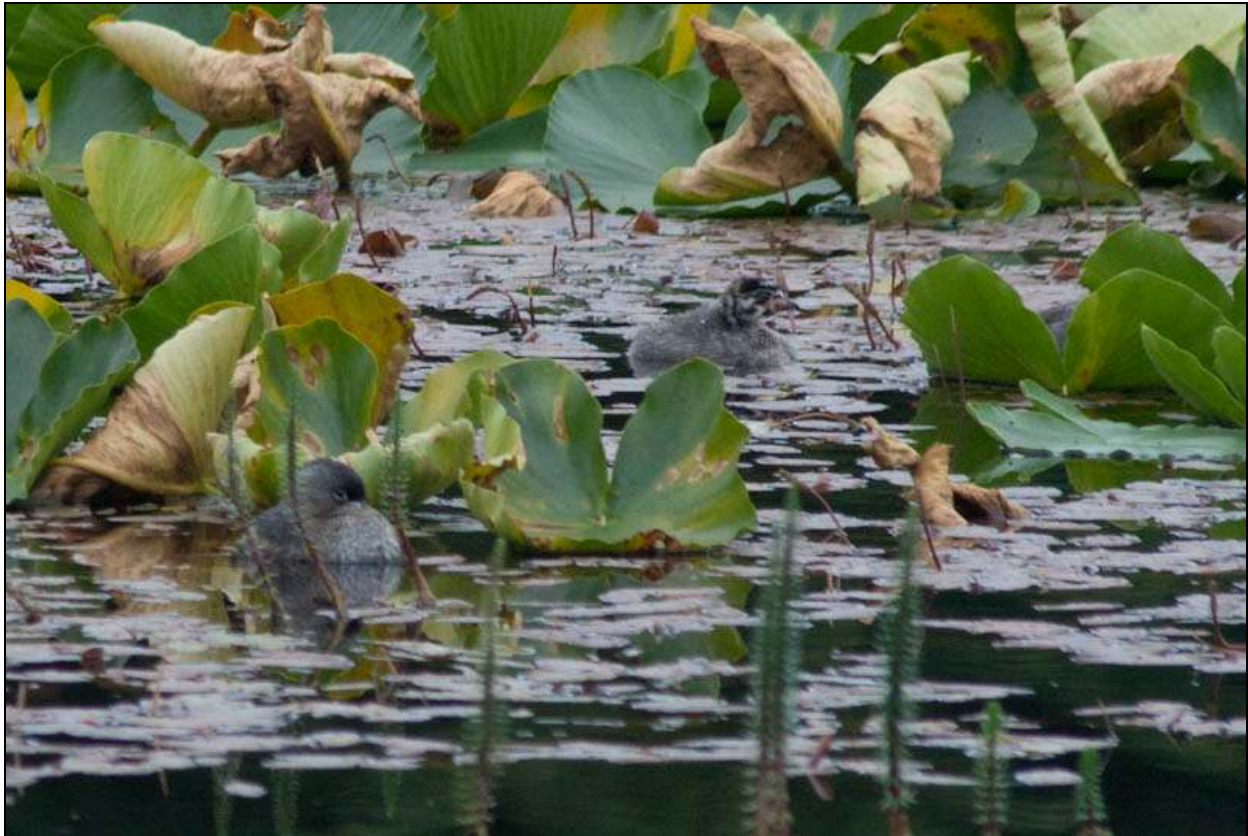


Figure 3. The 3rd Alaska nesting of the Pied-billed Grebe was documented at Swan Lake, Sitka, 4 August 2010. In addition to the nearly full-sized chick in the center of the photo, one adult grebe is visible in the left foreground and the gray back of another chick is barely visible behind the bright green *Nymphaea* leaves at right center. *Photo by Matt R. Goff*

LAYSAN ALBATROSS: Two Laysan Albatross were observed off Sitka 6 August 2010 (RN) and at least 10 were recorded in a generally north-south transect ~200 miles off Southeast Alaska 9 October 2010 (AJL). The Laysan Albatross is uncommon to fairly common in the northern and western Gulf of Alaska (Day 2006), but its status in the eastern Gulf is poorly known.

NORTHERN FULMAR: Severe October storms drove small numbers of Northern Fulmars into inside waters, including 14 in Revillagigedo Channel 10–11 October 2010 (AJL) and three at Mountain Point, along the Ketchikan road system, 17 October 2010 (AWP, SCH, WTY). This species is common off the outer coast of Southeast Alaska and B.C. (Willett 1915, Sanger 1972, Campbell et al. 1990a), but there were only two prior records from inside waters in the immediate Ketchikan area.



Figure 4. This Pied-billed Grebe at Gustavus 24 November 2010 established a 1st local record. *Photo by Janet Neilson*

MOTTLED PETREL: Three Mottled Petrels were observed well offshore of Southeast Alaska 9 October 2010—one at 54.5502°N 139.5177°W and one at 53.9848°N 137.8455°W (no location for the 3rd bird; AJL). The Mottled Petrel is rare to uncommon in the fall and spring in the northern and western Gulf of Alaska (Day 2006); it has been considered a very rare summer visitant off Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978) but its status, like many pelagic species, is poorly known.

BULLER'S SHEARWATER: A single Buller's Shearwater was observed 45 km southwest of Icy Point 27 August 2010 (SCH) and a total of five were observed well offshore of Southeast Alaska on 9 October 2010 (three at 54.599°N 139.6688°W, one at 54.0435°N 138.0048°W, and one at 53.8968°N 137.6005°W; AJL). In addition, several Buller's were found in British Columbia waters in Dixon Entrance 10 October 2010, one only a few miles from the Alaska border (AJL). This species is seasonally common or fairly common off coastal British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1990a) and probably occurs regularly in the Gulf of Alaska, but its status in Alaska is poorly known (Gibson et al. 2003).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: Severe storms drove Leach's Storm-Petrels to southern inside waters in mid-October: eight were found in Revillagigedo Channel 10–11 October (AJL) and small numbers were found in the immediate Ketchikan area 11–18 October 2010 (maximum, 10 on 17 October 2010 (SCH, AWP, WTY).

BRANDT'S CORMORANT: As is typical, a few Brandt's Cormorants were found at Ketchikan: one 12 November 2010+ (DKP, CJM) and three 27 November 2010 (AWP, SCH). This species is an uncommon winter visitant along the more open waters south of Ketchikan (Heinl and Piston 2007).

PELAGIC CORMORANT: A Pelagic Cormorant near Ketchikan 21 September 2010 (JHL, photo) had been banded as an adult at a breeding colony at Middleton Island in 2009 (fide Scott Hatch,

USFWS). Movements of this species are not well known, though some northern breeders migrate to British Columbia and northern Washington during winter (Hobson 1997) and likely also account for a portion of the pelagic cormorants that winter on the Inside Passage.



Figure 5. Black-footed Albatross are fairly common in the waters off the outer coast of Southeast Alaska. This flock was photographed off Sitka 5 August 2010. *Photo by Richard Nelson*

SWAINSON’S HAWK: A Swainson’s Hawk observed in flight at Gustavus 19 November 2010 was very late (NKD). This hawk is only sporadically reported in Alaska, primarily in the interior, “where nesters are known mostly from the eastern half of the Alaska Range” (Tobish 2004).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: A Rough-legged Hawk observed migrating over Ketchikan 24 October 2010 (SCH, WTY, AWP) provided only the 2nd local record. This species is a rare fall migrant in Southeast Alaska and is primarily found along the mainland where suitable habitat is more prevalent.

SORA: A Sora was found at Juneau’s Pioneer Marsh 22 August 2010 (PAR)—a favored location where nesting has been confirmed in the past. This species is a rare migrant and local summer visitant and breeder in Southeast Alaska, primarily on the mainland (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

AMERICAN COOT: Although the American Coot is a rare, regular migrant and winter visitant to Southeast Alaska, smaller-than-average numbers were reported this fall: two in the Juneau area 7 October 2010+ (m.obs.) and up to three at Sitka 22 October–26 November 2010 (MRG).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: This species is a rare to uncommon fall migrant in Southeast Alaska, most frequently found at Gustavus and Juneau. American Golden-Plovers were noted at Gustavus 3–16 August 2010 (maximum six on 17 August 2010; NKD, BBP), with single late birds found there 3 and 10 October 2010 (NKD), and at Juneau 14 August–11 September 2010 (maximum, three birds; m.obs.; photos).

PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER: The Pacific Golden-Plover is an uncommon migrant throughout Southeast Alaska but this fall it was only reported at Gustavus 3 August–10 September 2010 (maximum, eight on 2 September 2010; NKD, BBP).



Figure 6. Two views of a juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit at the Eagle River, near Juneau, 15 September 2010.
Photos by Robert H. Armstrong

KILLDEER: A single flock of 25 Killdeer at Ketchikan 16 October 2010 (JHL) provided a new local high count and one of the largest Alaska counts of this uncommon species.

WANDERING TATTLER: A Wandering Tattler at Juneau 19 November 2010 was extremely late (PMS, photo). This species normally departs Alaska by the end of September, though stragglers have been noted into October in the Aleutian Islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007), including the previous latest date we could find—one at Amchitka Island 23 October 1967 (Williamson and Emison 1969).

UPLAND SANDPIPER: Single Upland Sandpipers were reported at Juneau 20–21 August 2010 (GBV, et al.) and Gustavus 26 August 2010 (BBP). More unusual was an Upland Sandpiper in the alpine at Gavan Hill, Baranof Island, 27 August 2010 (PHN)—this shorebird is a casual fall migrant in Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978) and there are very few reports away from the northern mainland.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: Hudsonian Godwits were found at Gustavus 10 August 2010 (one; NKD) and at Eagle Beach, near Juneau, 22–28 August 2010 (maximum, four; PMS, MWS). This godwit is a rare migrant in northern Southeast Alaska, and most of the Region's records come from Gustavus and Juneau.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT: Single Bar-tailed Godwits were found at the Eagle River, near Juneau (MWS, RHA; Figure 6), and at Gustavus (BBP), both on 15 September 2010. This species is a casual migrant in southeast Alaska.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: A Baird's Sandpiper at Juneau's Mendenhall Wetlands 13–14 October 2010 (MWS, NRH photo) was very late, as this species typically departs Southeast Alaska by the end of September.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER: Single Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were found at Gustavus 5 September, 10 September, and 9 October 2010 (BBP, NKD), and at Juneau 23 October 2010 (GBV, PAR), 7

November 2010 (GBV, PMS, et al.), and 13 November 2010 (MWS; Figure 7). Although the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper has been considered a casual fall migrant in Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), it is recently proven to be a locally rare migrant and has been reported annually at Gustavus and Juneau.

DUNLIN: A color-banded Dunlin amongst the shorebird hordes at Gustavus 18 November 2010 (NKD) had been banded at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in 2006 (fide Dan Ruthrauff, USGS). Banded birds from the Y-K Delta have been found at Gustavus for six consecutive years, and it will be interesting to see how long they continue to be sighted there.

STILT SANDPIPER: Stilt Sandpipers were again reported in northern Southeast Alaska: three at Gustavus 19 August 2010 (BBP), seven at the Mendenhall Wetlands, near Juneau, 16 August–2 September 2010 (m.obs.; photos), and four at Eagle Beach, near Juneau 22 August 2010 (PMS). Although considered a casual migrant by Kessel and Gibson (1978), this species has proven to be an annual, rare fall migrant in the Juneau area over the past 15 years.

WILSON’S SNIPE: A flock of 37 Wilson’s Snipe observed (and heard) flying southeastward high over Juneau’s Mendenhall Wetlands 20 October 2010 (GBV), provided the largest single-day count of this species in the Juneau area.

RED PHALAROPE: Small numbers of Red Phalaropes were found in the Ketchikan area following severe mid-October storms: eight on 17 October 2010, four on 18 October 2010 (SCH, AWP, WTY), and one near Vallenar Bay, Gravina Island, on 26 October 2010 (AWP, SCH). This highly-pelagic species is casual on inside waters.

SABINE’S GULL: Small numbers of juvenile Sabine’s Gulls were observed in the Ketchikan area during stormy weather 10–26 October 2010, primarily single birds flying south, with a maximum of seven on 17 October 2010 (AWP, SCH, WTY). Non-storm-related birds were found in Cross sound 10 August 2010 (adult; GPS) and Glacier Bay 4 September 2010 (juvenile; BBP, NKD).



Figure 7. This juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper stood out nicely amongst the Rock Sandpipers and Black Turnstones at Eagle Beach, near Juneau, 13 November 2010. *Photo by Mark W. Schwan*



Figure 8. Juvenile Franklin's Gull (right) with adult Mew Gull (left) at Ketchikan 10 September 2010.
Photo by Steven C. Heinl

BONAPARTE'S GULL: Late-season Bonaparte's Gulls made news in the Juneau area where large numbers gathered to feed in mid-November, including a maximum estimate of 10,000 birds in several large flocks between Gull Island and Amalga 21 November 2010 (GBV; also 1,500 Mew Gulls present). It is not unusual for large numbers of migrant Bonaparte's to still be moving out of Southeast Alaska well into late November, but this estimate was among the largest ever for the Juneau area and more than double the previous local high count for the fall season.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: Franklin's Gull sightings included an adult in Icy Strait 7 September 2010 (adult; MWS) and single juveniles at Ketchikan 19 August 2010 (NRH, photo) and 10 September 2010 (SCH; Figure 8). This species is a rare migrant and summer visitant to coastal Alaska, though it has been found most frequently at Ketchikan where more than 30 have been found in the fall (see Heinl and Piston 2009).

HEERMANN'S GULL: A juvenile Heermann's Gull photographed at Stone Rock, just northeast of Cape Chacon in lower Clarence Strait, 16 August 2010 (NRH; Figure 9) followed close on the heels of a juvenile at Gustavus in late July 2010 and provided only the 10th Alaska record of this species. The Heermann's Gull breeds in western Mexico and post-breeding dispersal brings it north along the Pacific Coast annually to southern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1990b); it is casual, however, north of Vancouver Island.

CALIFORNIA GULL: California Gulls were found at Gustavus, where rare, with two 2 August 2010 (BBP) and single birds 5 and 10 August 2010 (NKD). The maximum count of 85 at the Mendenhall Wetlands, near Juneau, 9 September 2010 (PMS) was a much larger than average number for northern Southeast Alaska. This species is much more numerous in southern Southeast Alaska as exemplified by the 1,000 birds gathered along Ketchikan beaches 10 October 2010 following a severe storm (SCH).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Juneau's adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was uncharacteristically predictable this fall, as it regularly fed on salmon carcasses along the Mendenhall River from mid-August to at least 9 September 2010 (m.obs.; Figure 10). This bird is presumably the same individual that has summered annually in the Juneau area since 1991...

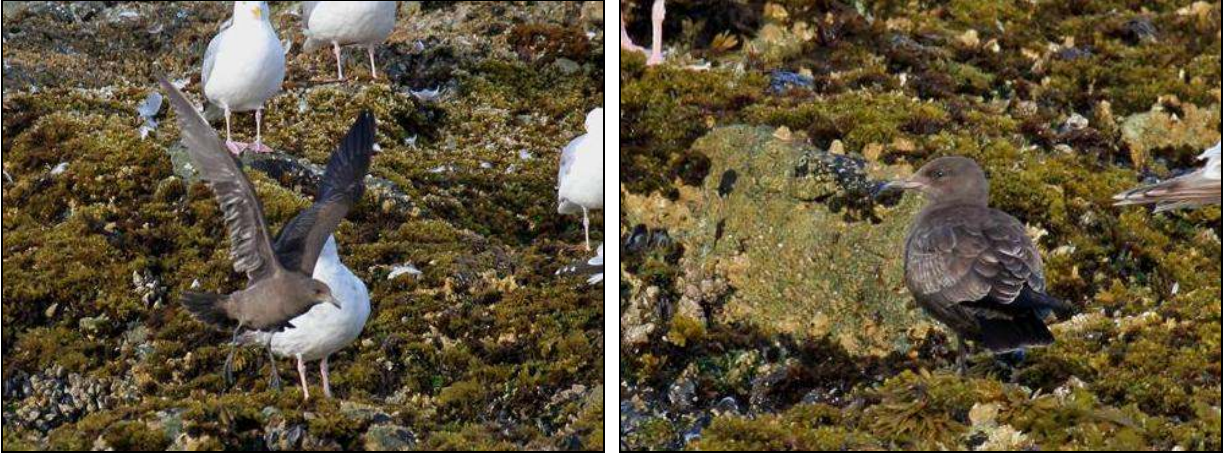


Figure 9. Immature Heermann's Gull at Stone Rock, near Cape Chacon, 16 August 2010. Note the nearly uniform dark brown plumage, including both the upper and under wing, solid black tail, and slender, dark bill with flesh-colored base of lower mandible. This bird provided the 10th Alaska record. *Photo by Nick R. Hajdukovich*

SLATY-BACKED GULL: An adult Slaty-backed Gull was found at Lagoon Creek, Prince of Wales Island, 22 September 2010 (AWP, SCH). At Ketchikan, a 2nd-cycle bird present 28 September-10 October 2010 (photos) was joined by another 2nd-cycle bird on 10 October 2010 (AWP, SCH). This species is a rare fall migrant along the south coast of Alaska.

CASPIAN TERN: Numbers of Caspian Terns in fall 2010 were down from recent years. The maximum count at Gustavus was 30 on 10 August 2010 (NKD), while single terns at Sitka 7 August 2010 (MLW, MET) and Juneau 25 August 2010 (PMS) provided the only other reports from the region.

ARCTIC TERN: Two immature Arctic Terns at Ketchikan during a severe storm 17 October 2010 (AWP, WTY, SCH, photo) were extremely late. This species normally departs the state by the end of September, and there are very few October records—the latest Alaska records that we could find were from Barrow (!) 7 October 2006 (*N. Am. Birds* 61:125) and Attu Island 15 October 1983 (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Amongst the storm-driven jaegers found in the Ketchikan area in mid-October was a juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger 20 October 2010 (2nd local record; SCH, AWP). This highly-pelagic species is typically found well offshore of Southeast Alaska and is casual or very rare on inside waters.

PARAKEET AUKLET. Three Parakeet Auklets were found well offshore of Southeast Alaska at 53.9638°N 137.7858°W on 9 October 2010 (AJL). This species has bred in very small numbers at the three major seabird breeding colonies along the outer coast of Southeast Alaska (St. Lazaria, Hazy, and Forrester islands; Jones et al. 2001; however, there are very few Southeast Alaska reports beyond the immediate vicinity of those colonies.



Figure 10. Juneau's long-running Lesser Black-backed Gull became a fixture along the Mendenhall River where it fed on salmon carcasses during much of August and early September, providing excellent opportunity for photographers—here photographed 8 September 2010 (top and bottom left; *Nick R. Hajdukovich*) and 9 September 2010 (bottom right; *Mark W. Schwan*). Note the bird's very dark gray mantle and slender build, particularly compared to the adult Glaucous-winged Gull in the top photo, yellow eye, characteristic large red gonys spot, and chrome yellow legs and bill.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: The large numbers of collared-doves that invaded Southeast Alaska in June were present in similar numbers through August, with several reports of juvenile birds and other evidence suggestive of local breeding near Ketchikan. From mid-August to early September, up to seven birds thought to be juveniles were reported at two different Ketchikan feeding stations (five birds, KMR; two birds, KLW). These juveniles were reported as being slightly smaller than adults and lacking a neck ring. On at least one occasion, a juvenile bird was observed pecking at an accompanying adult's bill, presumably in an attempt to get fed (KLW). A pair was also observed copulating in mid-August (KMR).

Numbers of collared-doves began to increase in early September and exceptional numbers were present by October, especially in southern Southeast Alaska. This increase in numbers was likely due to a post-breeding dispersal of birds from the south, rather than an increase due to locally-produced juveniles entering the population. At Ketchikan, peak numbers at individual feeding stations included 47 on 3 October 2010 (KMR, Figure 11), 19 on 27 September 2010 (JFK), and 13 on 26 September 2010 (JJR). In late September and early October there may have been as many as 100 individual collared-doves along the Ketchikan roadsystem (AWP, SCH). Elsewhere in the region, high counts included 14 at a feeder in Wrangell in early August (fide BHD), up to 12 at Petersburg in early August (BHP), and 10 at a feeder in Juneau on 17 October 2010 (VM). Also, two birds were photographed at Angoon in mid-September (DF), small numbers (1–3 birds) were present at Gustavus through the period (m.obs.), and singles were at Skagway 23 November 2010 (CDE, photo) and at Sitka all period (fide MRG). The species was still present throughout the region at the end of the period, including 30+ birds at Ketchikan and 31 at feeder in Petersburg 28 November 2010 (BHP).



Figure 11. There are 40 Eurasian Collared-Doves in this photo taken at Ketchikan 3 October 2010.
Photo by Kathy M. Ripley

MOURNING DOVE: This species is an annual, rare fall visitant to Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), and about average numbers were found in 2010. Singles were reported at Gustavus 22 September 2010 (NKD) and 27–28 September 2010 (LMP et al.); at Ketchikan 30 September 2010 (JHL), 1–2 October 2010 (JFK), 25 October 2010 (MC, photo), and late October (KMR); and Juneau 30 September 2010 (NRH, photo).

NORTHERN HAWK OWL: A Northern Hawk Owl was a nice find at Juneau 18–27 November 2010 (NRH; et al.; Figure 12). This species is very rare in Southeast Alaska and most reports are from the northern mainland.



Figure 12. Northern Hawk Owl at Juneau 19 November 2010. *Photo by Mark W. Schwan*

VAUX’S SWIFT: A Vaux’s Swift was found with swallows at Gustavus 14 August 2010 (NKD). This species reaches the northwestern limit of its summer range in northern Southeast Alaska and is rare in the Gustavus/Glacier Bay area (Wik and Streveler 1968).

FORK-TAILED SWIFT: Piston provided excellent written details of a Fork-tailed Swift which he observed during stormy weather at Disappearance Creek, Prince of Wales Island, 13 October 2010 (AWP). There are about 20 Alaska reports of this distinctive, Asian swift, nearly all of which are from the western Aleutians and Pribilof Islands where it is a casual migrant (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Gibson and Byrd 2007). A Fork-tailed Swift at Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, 24 September 1989 (*Am. Birds* 44:142) represented the only prior Alaska report of this species away from the Bering Sea area.

ANNA’S HUMMINGBIRD: The Anna’s Hummingbird is a very rare fall and winter visitant to Southeast Alaska, and its status has not changed much in the decades since one at Juneau in mid-October 1967 provided the first Alaska record (Kessel and Gibson 1978). This fall, however, unprecedented numbers of this hummingbird were reported from all over the region.

Of most interest was a subadult male and a female discovered in a clearcut at about 500’ elevation near Ketchikan 8 August 2010 (SCH). This clearcut was filled with shrubs, primarily *Vaccinium*, and scattered 10’ tall conifers from which the male sang. The male performed flight displays and chased the female around the area. Both were still present 15 and 22 August 2010, the last date the site was checked. This species is essentially unknown in Alaska away from sugar-water feeders (Kessel and Gibson 1994).

Between September and the end of November, at least eight additional Anna’s were found in the Ketchikan area (m.obs.; with more to be found in December). One was present at Gustavus 21–22 September (MDS, NKD) and again 30 October–30 November 2010 (MDS, NKD, DL; photos; 5th local record). At least four were found in the Juneau area: one 19 September 2010 (PAR; adult male), another 28 October 2010+ (PAR, NRH; Figure 13; imm. male) was joined by a second bird on 20 November 2010 (PAR), and one late October–early November 2010 (NAJ; photo; imm. male). At least four were found at Haines: one feeder hosted

a male and female 22 August–4 October 2010 and a subadult male 1 October–8 November 2010 (MMS), while another female was observed elsewhere in Haines 21 September 2010 (ASB).

One of the Juneau Anna's was captured in early November, when it appeared to be to doing less-than-well. Arrangements were made to ship the bird south to a warmer climate. The bird was hand carried via Alaska Airlines to a bird rehab center in L.A., California where it was released into the wild (NAJ; short article to be published in Alaska Magazine in February or March 2011). This isn't the first time that a hummingbird was shipped south: Alaska's first Costa's Hummingbird and numerous Anna's Hummingbirds were caught in early winter at Anchorage, Cordova, and Juneau and flown to Seattle, while a Ruby-throated Hummingbird captured in Nome (in August) was shipped to Juneau (fide Dan Gibson).

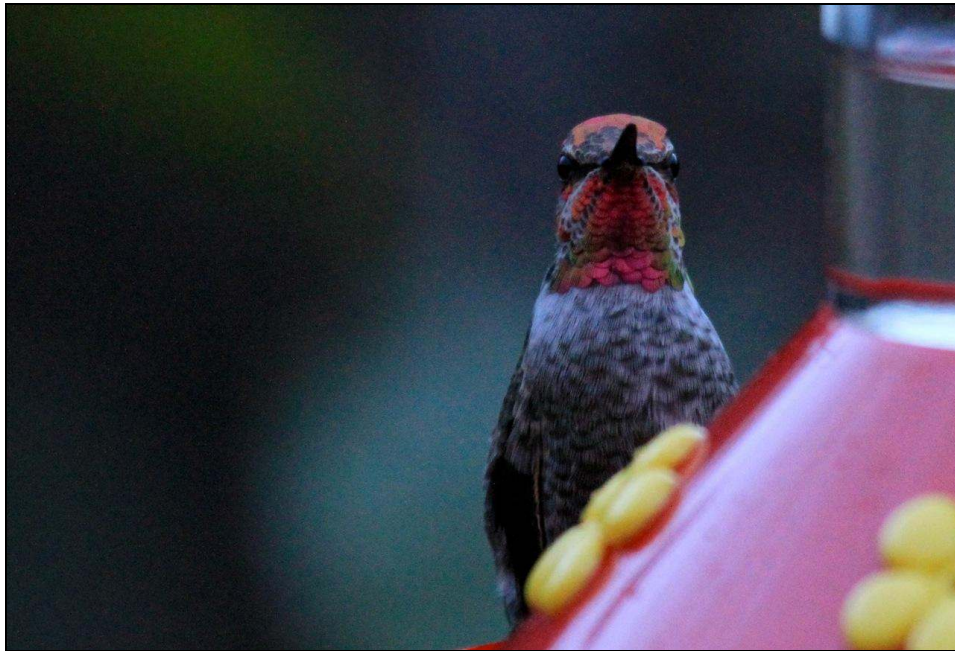


Figure 13. Normally, up to a few Anna's Hummingbirds are reported in Southeast Alaska each fall—this year, however, at least 19 were reported, including this young male at Juneau 30 October 2010. *Photo by Nick R. Hajdukovich*

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE: A Western Wood-Pewee at Sitka 30 September 2010 (MLW, MET) was very late, and provided a 3rd local record. This flycatcher is an uncommon migrant and breeder in mainland southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), but is a rare migrant in the Alexander Archipelago.

CASSIN'S VIREO: A Cassin's Vireo at Ketchikan 4 September 2010 (JFK, details) provided the 1st local report of this species. This vireo has recently become a very rare annual visitant to mainland Southeast Alaska (DeCicco and Hajdukovich 2008) but there is only one prior report from the Alexander Archipelago (11 June 1993, Mitkof Island).

HORNED LARK: A Horned Lark with a bright yellow face and throat at Gustavus 31 October 2010 (NKD; Figure 14) may very well have been the Asian subspecies *flava*. This form is a casual migrant in the Bering Sea area (Lehman 2005, Gibson and Byrd 2007) and there are two specimens from Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska (University of Alaska Museum, unpublished). There is one prior Southeast report of a yellow-faced Horned Lark (one photographed at Juneau 6 December 2007; *N. Am. Birds* 62:289).



Figure 14. The bright yellow face and throat of this Horned Lark at Gustavus 31 October 2010 was of interest. The Asian subspecies *flava* is named for its yellow face and throat, whereas the Alaska breeding subspecies *arcticola* has a white eyebrow and throat. Photos by Nat K. Drumheller

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE: A Black-billed Magpie was observed feeding on a deer carcass in the Sitka area 12 November 2010 (KT). Although this species is a common winter visitant to the northern Southeast mainland, it is rare in southern Southeast and very rare on the outer coast.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: This species occurs primarily on the mainland in southeast Alaska, where it is a locally uncommon spring migrant, and casual to rare fall migrant and winter visitant. A male observed in subalpine habitat near Ketchikan on 20 September 2010 provided the first local fall record and only the second local record overall (JHL). Another male was similarly found in alpine habitat at Mount Ripinski, near Haines, 22 September 2010 (ASB). One Mountain Bluebird was observed along the Mendenhall Wetlands Dike Trail, near Juneau, 24 October 2010 (GBV).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: This species is a rare migrant and probable breeder in southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978). Single birds were found in the subalpine near Ketchikan 15 September 2010 and 1 October 2010 (JHL, ph.) and at Ketchikan 9 November 2010 (AWP, SCH); a nice showing considering there were only two prior fall records for Ketchikan. Singles were also reported at Juneau 15 August 2010 (RJG) and Gustavus 17 September 2010 (MDS, ph.), and at high elevation on Thunder Mountain, near Juneau, 13 September 2010 (PMS).

CEDAR WAXWING: Cedar Waxwings were present in good numbers all summer in the Ketchikan area, where a single flock of 63 birds 31 August 2010 (JHL) provided a new local high count. Maximum counts of 20 were made at Gustavus 18 August 2010 (including adults feeding fledged birds; BBP) and at Juneau 11 September 2010 (NRH).



Figure 15. Two Palm Warblers were nicely documented in the Juneau area this fall—one on 13 October 2010 (left) and another on 21 October 2010 (right). *Photos by Nick R. Hajdukovich*



Figure 16. This male Common Yellowthroat at Ketchikan, 9 November 2010, provided a new late date for Alaska. *Photo by Jim H. Lewis*

PALM WARBLER: Single Palm Warblers were found in the Juneau area at the Mendenhall Wetlands 13 October 2010 (NRH; Figure 15) and the Juneau Arboretum 21 October 2010 (NRH, MJ; Figure 15). This species breeds as close as northeastern B.C. (Campbell et al. 2001) but is casual in Alaska where nearly all records are from the fall (Gibson and Kessel 1992).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: A Blackpoll Warbler was an excellent find at Juneau 12 September 2010 (PAR, photo). This species is a sparse breeder on the mainland and very rare fall migrant in Southeast Alaska.

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER: An adult male MacGillivray's Warbler at Ketchikan 24 October 2010 (AWP, SCH, WTY) provided a new local late date by nearly a month and likely the latest date ever for Alaska. Although this species can be common along the larger mainland rivers in Southeast Alaska, it is rare a rare find away from the mainland.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT: Very late Common Yellowthroats turned up at Juneau's Mendenhall Wetlands 16 October 2010 (PAR) and 17 October 2010 (NRH) and at Ketchikan, where three birds were at Mountain Point on 24 October 2010, and a male at Saxman 6–9 November 2010 provided a new late date for Alaska (SCH; AWP; JHL; Figure 16).

SPOTTED TOWHEE: A male Spotted Towhee showed up at Paul Suchanek's feeder on Douglas Island, Juneau, 8 November 2010 (PMS; Figure 17) and remained through the end of period. The Juneau area apparently has a special draw for towhees, as eight of Alaska's 10 records are from the Juneau area. This species breeds as close as southwestern British Columbia, where populations along the coast are considered to be mostly resident (Greenlaw 1996).

CHIPPING SPARROW: This species is an uncommon breeder at mainland river systems in Southeast Alaska (e.g., family group of four at Hyder 2 August 2010; SCH, WTY) but is a casual migrant away from the mainland. Singles were found at Ketchikan 3 October 2010 (SCH) and at Sitka 17 and 25 November 2010 (MLW, MET).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: A Clay-colored Sparrow at Ketchikan 6–9 November 2010 provided only the 9th Alaska record of this species (SCH, PJP, JLJ; Figure 18), which breeds as close as northeastern B.C. (Campbell et al. 2001).



Figure 17. This Spotted Towhee visited a Juneau area feeder starting 8 November 2010, the 10th to be found in Alaska. The contrasting brownish secondary feathers identify it as a hatching-year bird (see Pyle 1997, Beadle and Rising 2002). *Photo by Nick R. Hajdukovich*

SWAMP SPARROW: This typically casual fall migrant made its best showing ever in Southeast Alaska (Figure 19), with at least nine located in the region. Singles were found at Ketchikan 25 October–5 November 2010 (AWP, SCH, photo) and 13 November 2010+ (SCH, LHD, NRH, photo), and at the Mendenhall Wetlands Dike Trail, near Juneau, 7 November 2010 (GBV). At least three Swamp Sparrows were found in the Gustavus area, where there had been only one prior record—two together in the grass flats at Bartlett Cove 1 November 2010, followed by singles there 6 November and 29 November 2010 (the latter bird was 1.5 miles from the location of the original two birds; NKD, photo), and one in Gustavus 14 November (NKD, photo). Finally, three Swamp Sparrows were found at Mud Bay, northern Chichagof Island, 27 November 2010 (LHD, NRH).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: White-throated Sparrows also appeared in unprecedented numbers this fall. First arrivals were noted at Ketchikan 22 September 2010 (JHL) and Juneau 27 September 2010 (PAR, GBV, PMS). Season totals included five at Ketchikan (with more to come in December), several in Sitka, and eight in the Juneau area (m.obs.). This species is a rare migrant and winter visitant in Southeast Alaska.



Figure 18. Clay-colored Sparrow at Ketchikan 6 November 2010. *Photos by Steven C. Heinl*



Figure 19. Swamp Sparrows made an excellent showing in Southeast Alaska in fall 2010, here photographed at Gustavus 1 November 2010 (right; *Nat K. Drumheller*), Ketchikan 25 October 2010 (center; *Steven C. Heinl*), and Ketchikan 13 November 2010 (*Nick R. Hajdukovich*).



Figure 20. Was this Rustic Bunting at Ketchikan 29 October 2010 one of the two birds that appeared in the very same yard in fall 2009? *Photo by Steven C. Heint*

WESTERN TANAGER: A Western Tanager at Juneau 5 October 2010 (NRH, photo) was late. This species is a very rare fall migrant in Southeast Alaska.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: An immature Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a Ketchikan feeder 15 September 2010 (SCH; Figure 21) provided only the 9th Alaska record of this species, which breeds as close as northeastern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 2001) and occurs regularly as a very rare migrant along the Pacific Coast south of Alaska (AOU 1998).



Figure 21. Two *Phuecticus* grosbeaks turned up in Southeast Alaska this fall—a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Ketchikan 15 September 2010 (left photo; *Steven C. Heint*) and a Black-headed Grosbeak at Sitka 18 October 2010 (right photo; *Carrie Hisaoka*).



Figure 22. Male Brewer's Blackbird at Ketchikan 2 November 2010. *Photo by Jim H. Lewis*

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: A Black-headed Grosbeak visited at a Sitka feeder 18–19 October 2010 (CKH; Figure 21). This species is a rare visitant to Southeast Alaska and has been found nearly annually since 1996.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: Single Rusty Blackbirds were noted at Sitka 26–27 August 2010 (MET, MLW) and at Ketchikan 11 November 2010 + (m.obs). This species is an uncommon migrant and local breeder along the Southeast mainland (Kessel and Gibson 1978) but is very rare in the Alexander Archipelago.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: An adult male Brewer's Blackbird at Ketchikan 2 November+ provided the 8th local record (JHL, AWP; SCH; Figure 22). There are fewer than 20 records of this species for Alaska.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD: Single juvenile cowbirds were found at Petersburg 12–13 August 2010 (AWP) and Pelican 24 August 2010 (PMS; Figure 23), and at Juneau, where a cowbird spent late summer amongst the horses at Industrial Boulevard (RJG). This species is a rare migrant and probable breeder in Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

HOUSE SPARROW: After a productive Ketchikan breeding season, up to eight House Sparrows were regularly observed through the end of the period near the nesting building (AWP, SCH) and at a feeding station a few blocks away (ED).



Figure 23. Young Brown-headed Cowbirds can turn up virtually anywhere in Alaska in the fall. This cowbird accompanied a Red-winged Blackbird at Pelican 24 August 2010. *Photo by Paul M. Suchanek*

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